

S1: Example of a Risk Assessment Tool for minimum escort requirements

[Source: Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Policy for the escort and transfer of patients between care settings, April 2010]

Adult Patient Escort Risk Assessment Tool - used as an aide memoir

The Escort Risk Assessment tool should be used as a guide to support decision making. Please refer to the main policy for guidance of when to use this tool

Risk Assessment Factors		Score	
All Adult patients requiring Level 1, Level 2 (HDU) or Level 3 (ITU) care		3	
Aggressive or sectioned under the Mental Health act or on the recommendation of the Lead Nurse for Mental Health or Psychiatric Liaison Nurse		3	
Women who are ≥ 20 weeks pregnant and in active Labour		3	
Acute difficulty in breathing-wheeze, stridor, distressed, tracheotomy or artificial airway		3	
Any patient requiring an invasive diagnostic or interventional procedure (patients referred for invasive ambulatory care, or those who are likely to be given sedation during investigations)		2	
Medical device insitu such as, a drainage system e.g.(not urinary catheter), intravenous infusion or TENs machine		2	
IV opiates/sedation in past 1 hr or via infusion		2	
Patients pre and post operative or invasive procedure (More than one patient can be escorted to theatre by one member of staff		2	
Any patient who is having a blood transfusion, chemotherapy or on continuous IV therapy that is of an opiate nature or other drug likely to alter patient's physical state (this includes patients with an arterial line in situ). Infusions can only be stopped in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with medical staff.		2	
Adults with an acute altered degree of conscious level or acute confused state (GCS < 15)		2	
Cardiac monitoring & / or Chest pain within previous 4 hours		2	
Adult patients with a CEWSS Score ≥ 1		2	
Out of hours CT scan, MRI scan or angiogram		2	
Patients with dementia and at risk of wandering if relative/carer not present		1	
IV Fluids therapy – only		1	
Oxygen <40 % therapy – only		1	
Patients with Mental Health needs on Standard or Intermittent observations		1	
Results	Guide to minimum patient escort requirements		
Score of 3 or above	Registered Nurse / Midwife/Registered Mental Nurse (RMN) escort – consider expert advice		
Score of 2	Registered Nurse / Midwife/Registered Mental Nurse (RMN)/ODP escort		
Score of 1 or below	Health Care Assistant/Student Nurse/ Student Midwife/Transport Staff /Volunteer (when available)		

This is not a total scoring system; application of this tool is intended as a guide only it should not replace clinical judgment.